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2/8/21 Weekly Washington Update

Headlines to Know

- Former President Trump's second impeachment trial is set to begin on Monday, despite the fact that the majority of President Biden's cabinet is still unconfirmed.
- Last week Thursday, 11 House Republicans joined Democrats to strip Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene of her committee assignments in a 230-199 vote after new information came to light revealing Greene's association and endorsement of "racist and fringe beliefs." They also cited her calls to execute Democratic politicians prior to her being elected.
- Last week, Senate Democrats voted to begin the budget reconciliation process for the \$1.9T stimulus package, and won by a simple majority. This triggered a "vote-a-rama" that lasted for nearly 15 hours as many Republican and some Democratic senators proposed amendments to the budget measure.
- After several weeks of deliberation, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell were able to reach a deal on the "organizing resolution", a power sharing agreement that closely resembles that of 2001, granting Democrats to have control over committees and their assignments. The Senate will be an evenly split body with Vice President Kamala Harris as the tie-breaking vote.
- Sonceria "Ann" Berry will become the first African-American Secretary of the Senate on March 1, replacing Julie Adams.

Other News to Know

- The United States Justice Department dropped their lawsuit against Yale that charged the College with discriminating against Asian-American and white applicants in their admissions process. This is a reversal from the department's endorsement of a similar case brought against Harvard.

This Week on Capitol Hill

Hearings of Interest:

- Tuesday, Feb. 9 | 9:15 a.m. Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the nomination of Neera Tanden to be director of the Office of Management and Budget. 342 Dirksen.
- Tuesday, Feb. 9 | 11:00 a.m. House Transportation and Infrastructure Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on "State of the U.S. Maritime Industry: Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic." 2167 Rayburn.

- Tuesday, Feb. 9 | 12:00 p.m. House Energy and Commerce Environment and Climate Change Subcommittee hearing on "Back in Action: Restoring Federal Climate Leadership."
- Wednesday, Feb. 10 | 10:00 a.m. Senate Budget Committee hearing on the nomination of Neera Tanden to be director of the Office of Management and Budget.

Markups (votes) of Interest

- Tuesday, Feb. 11 | 10:00 a.m. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee markup to vote on the nominations of Miguel Cardona to be Education secretary and Martin Walsh to be Labor secretary.

Schedule of Floor Activity:

- The House will be in session from Monday to Thursday of this week.
- The Senate will be in session all this week as Former President Trump's second impeachment trial gets underway.